

Housing & Community Safety Select Committee

A meeting of Housing & Community Safety Select Committee was held on Thursday, 28th May, 2009.

Present: Cllr Julia Cherrett, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr Robert Gibson, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Bill Noble, Cllr Bill Woodhead

Officers: Mike Batty, Julie Higgins, Raymond Sullivan, Barry Jackson (DNS), Andy Bryson (RES), Sarah Whaley, Graham Birtle (LD)

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Allison Trainer, Cllr Jackie Earl, Cllr Mrs Liz Nesbitt

HCS 1/09 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Woodhead declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item no.3 – Review of Registered Social Landlords and item no. 4 - Review of Choice Based Lettings as he was a member of the Tristar Management Board.

Councillor Gibson declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item no.3 – Review of Registered Social Landlords and item no. 4 - Review of Choice Based Lettings as he was a member of the Tristar Management Board.

Councillor Mrs Cherrett declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item no.3 – Review of Registered Social Landlords and item no. 4 - Review of Choice Based Lettings as she was a member of the Tristar Management Board.

HCS 2/09 Minutes of the meeting held on the 12th March

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2009.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2009 be approved and forwarded to Council.

HCS 3/09 Monitoring of Previously Agreed Recommendations

- Initial Progress Report - Review of Registered Social Landlords**
- Draft Protocol for communication between Council and RSL's**

Members were presented with the initial progress report for the review of Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) and were asked to consider the progress contained within. The Housing Strategy Team Leader drew Members attention in particular to the Communication Protocol 2009/10 and informed Councillors

that the report had been checked by the legal department and confirmed that there were no legal implications contained. Members were asked to suggest any changes/additions they felt necessary to the Protocol and the following recommendations were made:

1. That the Protocol highlight the benefits of informal walkabouts by Ward Councillors

2. That Ward Councillors are invited to residents meetings.

The Housing Strategy Team Leader also confirmed that the Protocol would be sent to all RSL's once the report was finalised and suggested that the monitoring process of information exchange in relation to the Communication Protocol would be lead by the Housing Strategy Team, to which the Committee agreed.

Members queried the absence of Tristar within the report and it was agreed that the Housing Strategy Team Leader would investigate the existence of a Communication Protocol for Tristar and Members and report back to the Committee.

CONCLUDED that:

The assessment of progress contained in the report be agreed with amendments as detailed above and that further updates on those actions not signed off as complete be received as appropriate.

**HCS
4/09**

Monitoring of Previously Agreed Recommendations

- Progress Updates - Review of Choice Based Lettings

Members were asked to consider the assessments of progress contained within the Progress Updates on the implementation of previously agreed recommendations in relation to the Review of Choice Based Lettings.

CONCLUDED that:

The assessment of progress contained in the report be agreed and further update be received as appropriate

**HCS
5/09**

Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation Review of Regulatory Services

- To agree scope and project plan (papers to follow)

The Committee were asked to consider and agree the scope and project plan for the EIT Review of Regulatory Services including the proposed time scales.

The Head of Community Protection introduced and explained the Scope to Members including the different approaches available to enable the reviews to be carried out. Members were asked to select their preferred approach and confirm that they were happy to agree the proposed timescales. Members were also informed that packs would be available for Members to aid them in starting the reviews and that these packs included 41 standard questions. Officers confirmed that during each review the relevant officers would be in attendance at future meetings.

Members also confirmed the order in which they would carry out the reviews taking into account other commitments which were to be fulfilled across the authority.

Members agreed to look at 2 reviews at each of the next three meetings in the following order:

- 1) Trading Standards and Licensing
- 2) Environmental Health and Homes of Multiple Occupation (Private Sector Housing Division)
- 3) Development Control and Building Control.

It was discussed that all the reviews would be reported to Cabinet in one final report however interim reports could be presented if efficiency savings are identified.

CONCLUDED that:

the scope and project plan be agreed as per discussion above.